

MODIS Technical Team Meeting
Thursday, March 14, 2002
Building 33, Room F225
3:00 P.M.

Vince Salomonson chaired the meeting. Present were Gary Alcott, Jack Xiong, Eric Vermote, Shaida Johnston, Wayne Esaias, Barbara Conboy, Skip Reber, Robert Wolfe, Ed Masuoka, Michael King, with Rebecca Lindsey taking the minutes.

1.0 Upcoming Meeting

- AGU, Spring, May 28-Jun 1, Washington, D.C.
- AMS, Atmospheric Radiation and Atmospheric Physics, first week of June, Odgen, Utah.
- MODIS Outreach Workshop on Land Cover Variables, June 3-4, University of Maryland, College Park.
- IGARSS 2002, June 24-28, 2002 in Toronto (abstract deadline past)
- MODIS Outreach Workshop on MODIS Vegetation Variables (VI/LAI/FPAR/NPP), July 15-19th 2002, University of Montana, Missoula, MT
- MODIS Science Team Meeting, Tentative, July 22-24, 2002
- Remote Sensing of the Earth's Environment from Terra, a workshop at the International Summer School on Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences, August 25-30, 2002, L'Aquila Italy
- 34TH COSPAR Scientific Assembly, October 10-19, 2002, in Houston, TX, (abstracts due 1 May)
- MODIS Outreach Workshop on Land Surface Radiation Products, October 24-25, 2002, Boston

2.0 Meeting Minutes

General Discussion

Esaias reported that the initial delivery of SST data for the Interdisciplinary Global Sampler contained the nighttime 4 μm data, which they feel is still provisional and should not be included. They plan to add additional ocean color data in place of the SST 4 μm volume, but the total volume required will still go down. Esaias said they are planning to provide additional user documentation, quality statements, etc, in the form of a user guide. Salomonson reiterated comments from last week, saying that once a user gets to the discipline home pages, it should be easy to find the user guides. Atmosphere and Oceans are going to include quality information like standard deviations and joint histograms. Vermote said that Land doesn't keep stats in that way because of volume issues. Salomonson said they might want to consider adding something like number of observations in a grid. Salomonson reported that Alfredo Huete wants EVI included in the IGS. Salomonson said that the team chose NDVI because of continuity, but we could make EVI available from the ftp site.

Instrument Update

Xiong said Aqua is still at Vandenburg, and there are some problems with the spacecraft. Claire Parkinson has written out a digest of the issues. There is the potential for about a week slip in launch. Johnston reported that they could slip for quite some time without impacting other launches.

Xiong reported that Terra MODIS is developing a noisy detector in a fire band. He has discussed the issue with Vermote. MCST is working on the L1B Band 26 de-striping correction, and they are coding it now. They have also added the time-dependent RVS corrections. Xiong also indicated that they are planning to set the PC bands (33-36) a0 to 0 in the LUT. Esaias asked if they were going to the Thullier spectrum, and Xiong said probably not at this time since no decision has been made from the MsWG participants.

Xiong reported that MCST had sent some polarization data to Miami for review. Xiong said that Vermote had asked to add another L1B update beyond the deadline they set up in preparation for the L1B reprocessing. Xiong thinks it will be OK as long as they get the update, which will be addressing cross talk, by August.

Data Processing

Salomonson said things are going well with testing of the new oceans code, and they could start as early as May 1. Then they would be done by August. The reprocessing will go all the way back to February 2000. There is an issue with nomenclature because the Oceans reprocessing will be called Collection 4, but some portions of it will be made with Collection 3 L1B. However, Salomonson said he understood that the differences produced would be very small.

Salomonson reported that he had a note from Paul Menzel saying that all his products except cloud phase are validated. Salomonson was going to send the email to King for information. Among the improvements were that they had eliminated the GOES-relative bias in the water vapor product.

Alcott reported that the DAAC is on schedule for installation of 6A05, which could improve performance according to experience at EDC. The new version appears to solve many ordering problems, e.g., it does not delete a whole order over a single missing granule. They are having a meeting Friday, March 15, to make a final decision, and a CCD on the following Monday morning. They are wrapping up the last of the testing, and only things they are finding were those things already wrong with 6A04 also.

Masuoka reported that with respect to the MODIS requests to the SWGD, it appears that our top 2 priorities were approved. These were 1) getting the MODIS archive volume baseline correct for Aqua MODIS products so that we can store everything we make, and 2) increasing ingest rates at the GSFC DAAC so that we can do separate discipline reprocessing. Reber said the separate earmark for distribution issues would likely be addressed in the next few weeks.

Land Update

Johnston reported that she had met with Land validation folks to talk about how to refer to product quality in the context of collecting results and matching them with error budgets that were in ATBDs.

Vermote said that he would like to introduce a L1B delivery before land reprocessing commenced that would correct cross talk in Band 7. This would help the atmosphere team, too. They will want to make sure doesn't affect oceans, but it should only take a few weeks to test the change in MODAPS.

Oceans Update

Esaias reported that Janet Campbell had ordered MODIS data through Terra WHOM, and really liked it. She will provide some feedback to Steve Kempler. He is very pleased that Miami made the code delivery for reprocessing, and progress is being made. They had a good meeting with SeaWiFS on Tuesday, and we are squared away to send them the 4 km binned MODIS products for merging with their data.

Concluding remarks

Salomonson reported that we have made progress on releasing software for Direct Broadcast. Pat Coronado's Direct Reception Web site will be used to distribute the MODIS science software. On the site there will be separate directories for the software that has been modified to be compatible with Direct Broadcast and the software that is developed to run in MODAPS and the EOSDIS systems ("institutional software".) Under "institutional" they will just provide code, but no guarantee that it is Direct Broadcast compatible. There are still heritage-code issues for release of ocean products. Esaias reported that Kay Kilpatrick thinks the recently delivered metadata update tool looks like it is going to have all the needed functionality.

3.0 Action Items

3.1 Discipline leads to meet to resolve the issue of beta-release code and science-quality code, and what we need to say about it.

Status: Open.

3.2 Technical team to discuss further the issue of predicted ephemeris data and how to improve it.

Status: Open.